Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DAMASC 01039 251540Z

71
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCCT-01 ACDA-05 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 /068 W
---------- 129788
R 251504Z FEB 76
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6419
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
DIA WASHDC
USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 1039

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, SY
SUBJECT: FURTHER ON ASSASSINATION OF ALAWITE SECURITY
CHIEF IN HAMA

REF: (A) DAMASCUS 0831, (B) DAMASCUS 0944

1. RECENT MURDER OF SYRIAN SECURITY OFFICIAL IN HAMA
APPEARS TO HAVE HAD POLITICAL AS WELL AS PERSONAL
MOTIVATIONS. SYRIAN OFFICIAL WITH GOOD ACCESS TO
SARG SECURITY PERSONNEL TOLD EMBOFF FEB. 23 THAT
GROUP KNWON AS "YOUTH OF MOHAMMAD" (SHABAB MUHAMMAD)
WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR ASSASSINATION. HE ASSERTED THAT
THIS GROUP HAD ARRANGED SUCCESSFUL PRISON BREAK TWO
MONTHS AGO FOR ONE OF ITS MEMBERS CAPTURED BY
AUTHORITIES. IN PARTIAL RETALIATION SECURITY CHIEF
GHURRA ORDERED ASSASSINATION OF MEMBER OF ALWANI FAMILY,
LONG KNOWN FOR ITS INVOLVEMENT IN CITY'S POLITICAL AFFAIRS.
POLITICAL PAMPHLETS LEFT AT SCENE OF GHURRA'S
MURDER PROCLAIMED ACTION DONE BY "YOUTH OF MUHAMMAD"
AND PLEDGED TO KILL FORTY "UNBELIEVERS" (ALAWIS AND
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 DAMASC 01039 251540Z

POSSIBLY CHRISTIANS, ALTHOUGH SOURCE SAID MESSAGE

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

PRIMARILY AIMED AT ALAWIS) FOR EVERY "BELIEVER" KILLED, WITH RIF'AT AL-ASAD'S NAME (RIF'AT IS ASAD'S BROTHER AND COMMANDER OF DEFENSE COMPANIES FIRST ON THEIR LIST.

2. SOURCE CONTINUED THAT SARG WAS DETERMINED TO IDENTIFY CULPRITS AND PREVENT DISTURBANCES FROM SPREADING TO OTHER SYRIAN CITIES. SAID THREE HUNDRED SUSPECTS HAD BEEN DETAINED ALREADY.STILL, HE ASSERTED, PERPETRATORS OF CRIME HAD NOT BEEN DISCOVERED, AN INDICATION, HE CLAIMED, OF DEPTH OF ANTI-ALAWITE FEELING AMONG HAMA'S SUNNI POPULATION.

3. OTHER SYRIAN SOURCES HAVE TOLD US THAT ALL MEMBERS OF EXTENDED ALWANI FAMILS HAVE BEEN ROUNDED UP FOR QUESTIONING. KNOWLEDGE OF HAMA INCIDENT HAS APPARENTLY TOUCHED OFF DISTURBANCES IN OTHER CITIES. HOMS WAS SCENE OF PRO-GOVERNMENT DEMON-STRATION FEB. 23; DEMONSTRATORS REPORTEDLY URGED REVENGE FOR GHURRA'S SLAYING. IN DAMASCUS WE UNDERSTAND THREE SUNNI RELIGIOUS SHEIKHS HAVE BEEN REPRIMANDED BY MUFTI FOR ANTI-GOVERNMENTAL CRITICISM. THERE HAVE ALSO BEEN RUMORS OF AN ANTI-CHRISTIAN ASPECT TO THE DEMONSTRATIONS IN HAMA, BUT WE AS YET UNABLE VERIFY THEM.

6. COMMENT: RECENT TRAVELER TO HAMA REPORTS TRAFFIC IS FLOWING FREELY THROUGH CITY THOUGH MORE UNIFORMS THAN USUSAL IN EVIDENCE. FOR THE MOMENT AT LEAST, IT APPEARS THAT SYRIAN AUTHORITIES HAVE SITUATION IN HAND.
PELLETREAU

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ASSASSINATION, GOVERNMENT PERSONNEL, CIVIL DISORDERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976DAMASC01039
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760071-0840
From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760216/aaaaancj.tel
Line Count: 93
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 DAMASCUS 831, 76 DAMASCUS 944
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 JUN 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <07 OCT 2004 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FURTHER ON ASSASSINATION OF ALAWITE SECURITY CHIEF IN HAMA
TAGS: PINS, SY, (GHURRA, MUHAMMAD)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006